

**Norfolk Reentry Council
Meeting Minutes
Workforce Development Center
July 17, 2015**

WELCOME

Madonna Flores extended greetings to members and guests present. Members and guest introduced themselves.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Madonna Flores updated the Council on the Housing and Wellness Town Hall Meeting. There is a change in venue. The meeting will no longer be held at Union Mission. The new location is Gethsemane Community Fellowship, 1317 East Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, VA on Tuesday, August 25th 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Also, the Reentry Summit will be held on October 26th at the ODU's Ted Constant Center.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Mike Paris talked about the plans for the upcoming Job Fair. Everything is in place and ready to go. Volunteers will meet briefly that morning to go over the strategy for the day. Mike also mentioned that a Financial Improvement workshop will be held on August 27th at the Workforce Development Center, Room 208, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm.

PRESENTATION

Marion Curry, Offender Workforce Development Specialist Senior, Eastern Region, Virginia Department of Corrections, Greensville Correctional Center, provided the group with an excellent overview of the duties of an Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) inside facilities. He also discussed the entire training series: Offender Employment Specialist (OES), Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS), and Offender Employment Retention Specialist (OERS). All trainings for these certifications are offered by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). In addition, Mr. Curry mentioned the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) certification. For more information contact Marion Curry at (434) 602-3310; marion.curry@vadoc.virginia.gov.

PROGRAM UPDATES

DHS Programs:

- Madonna introduced Garry Cofield the newest member to the Norfolk Reentry Team. She also thanked Child Support for posting flyers about the Reentry Peer Support Groups; new members mentioned they saw the flyers while conducting business at the Child Support Offices. Mike Paris provided an update on the 4 part Job Readiness Series offered every Thursday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am Room 303 at the WDC.
Peer Support Groups at WDC on Tuesdays; W.E.L.L (Women) 5 p.m.-6 p.m. & Safe Haven (Co-ed) 6.p.m.-7 p.m. All returning citizens are welcome to attend.

Institutions:

- **St. Brides** - Joshua Coleman, OWDS advised that they will have 2 workshops coming up about financial management, computer skills, resume writing and job searching. From the Ready to Work group 35 individuals returning to Norfolk by August. Still doing Inside/Outside Dad and T4C.
- **Greensville** – Leo Akujuobi, OWDS advised about an upcoming Veterans Resource Fair on June 25th. There will be on the spot casework and information about healthcare and the GI Bill. Next Resource Fair will be held in November – date TBD.
- **Indian Creek** - Allan Dorrough advised that they are now offering inmates the opportunity to obtain a Forklift Certification. They are also tracking how many people have the Serve Safe. Additionally, the new contractor Spectrum is getting settled and developing new curriculums.
- **Sussex I & II** – Principal Timothy Donley mentioned their Barbering Program. They are hiring for 3 ABE/GED Program Support Technicians and are in need of more teachers.

P & P:

- Trish Miller mentioned that currently 3500 people are on supervised probation and attributed their success with clients to the collaborative work of everyone involved in reentry.

Other updates:

- Peggy Howard with the Newport News Sheriff's Department gave an update of a successful outcome for a returning citizen.
- Roberto Rosa-Ramos, New Director for the EEOC mentioned that if we have clients that have been denied employment due to their charges have them contact the EEOC.

Location:

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